

From: [Scott Purdy](#)
To: [2026summerfires](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Transcript - 1 May 2026 | Inquiry into the 2026 summer fires across Victoria
Date: Thursday, 4 June 2026 8:05:02 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[QON2 - CFA Response Final.pdf](#)

Hi Kieran and team.

Please find attached CFA's response to the Questions on notice and other matters as requested by the committee in your correspondence dated 18/5/2026.

I thank you for the support and engagement throughout this process, and trust the attached response meets the needs of the committee.

Should further be required, please reach out.

Regards,



Scott Purdy Deputy Chief Officer (Acting)
[REDACTED]

Protecting lives and property



cfa.vic.gov.au

From: [Scott Purdy](#)
To: [2026summerfires](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] [Greg Leach](#)
Subject: FW: Transcript - 1 May 2026 | Inquiry into the 2026 summer fires across Victoria
Date: Friday, 5 June 2026 3:04:58 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Kirean,

Thanks for your time on the phone earlier.

As discussed, I would like to request the CFA response as provided by myself yesterday be returned to CFA.

Due to an administrative error on my end, the submission was not complete and was a working draft.

CFA will endeavour to meet the deadline as communicated, but would appreciate a short extension if possible until Thursday 11 June.

Apologies again for the error, please let me know if the extension is possible.

Regards,



Scott Purdy Deputy Chief Officer (Acting)
[REDACTED]

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From: [Greg Leach](#)
To: [2026summerfires](#)
Cc: [Scott Purdy](#); [Jason Heffernan](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: CFA QoN responses to Upper House Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 16 June 2026 1:14:08 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-ingvd4g3.png](#)
[Outlook-p2pj4vi0.png](#)
[Outlook-r0endhng.png](#)
[Outlook-hmggegu2.png](#)

Good Afternoon Kieran,

In reply to your email to A/DCO Scott Purdy, I refer you to the email correspondence I have received from DJCS outlining the process that CFA has been requested to undertake in relation to the CFA QoN responses.

My apologies, I was of the understanding that DJCS were going to notify you of this process.

Please email or call if you need to discuss further.

Regards,

Greg



Greg Leach AFSM
Chief Executive Officer

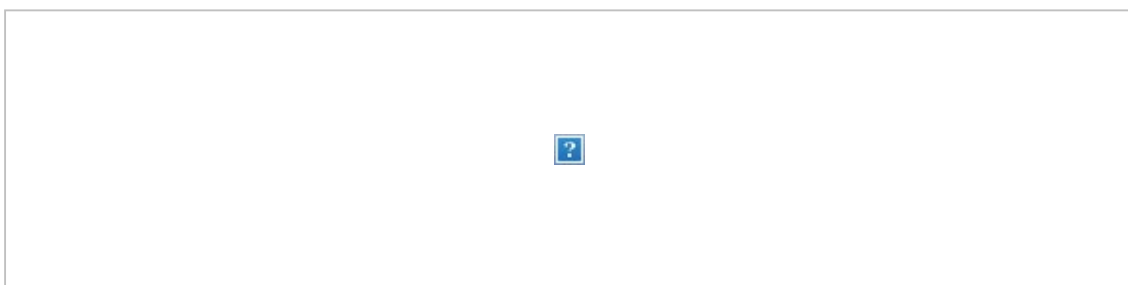
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: David Clavarino (DJCS) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 June 2026 9:11 AM
To: Greg Leach [REDACTED]
Cc: Dean M Tighe (DJCS) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jason Heffernan [REDACTED] Scott Purdy
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: CFA QoN responses to Upper House Inquiry

Hi Greg, thanks for sending these through.

We will share these QoN responses with VGSO for review and will come back to you on their timeframes (probably early next week).

In the event that VGSO confirms there is no content which could be subject to an executive privilege claim, you can then re-send and confirm the responses with the Committee.

In the event that VGSO identifies content which could be subject to an executive privilege claim, you have two options:

1. Consider whether there is another way of answering the QoN without divulging executive privilege content.
2. Advise the Committee that the content in response to a QoN is subject to an executive privilege claim and that we need to seek approval from executive Government to provide the response. EMV can then include this claim in the Cabinet Submission we are currently progressing for the briefing packs claim (later this month).

For awareness, we are working with the Minister's Office to try to arrange out of session approval of the executive privilege claim in the next two weeks (through the Legislation Sub-Committee of Cabinet). We are continuing to engage with the Committee Secretariate on the timeframes.

Thanks again and please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Dave

David Clavarino

Director Emergency Management Strategy and Policy
Emergency Management Victoria



We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders, past, present and future.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Greg Leach [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2026 13:53:58
To: Dean M Tighe (DJCS) [redacted]
Cc: Jason Heffernan [redacted]; [redacted]
Scott Purdy [redacted]

Subject: CFA QoN responses to Upper House Inquiry

Hi Dean

I refer to our phone conversation on Tuesday last regarding the process for CFA to respond to the questions from the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee which Jason Heffernan and I took on notice at the hearing on 01 May 2026. CFA was provided with a due date of Monday 08 June by the Inquiry Secretariat to submit our responses to the QoN's.

CFA prepared a written response to those questions which was provided to the Committee on 04 June 2026. CFA did not consider its response contained any content which would give rise to a claim of executive privilege. I note that FRV's written response to questions on notice is already publicly available on the Committee website.

Based on our telephone conversation, my understanding of the process from here is that the CFA's written response has to be reviewed by DJCS/VGSO and a Cabinet Committee (listed for 20 June 2026) before it can be provided to the Committee. I also understand that EMV is coordinating that process in its role as the lead agency. CFA has informed the Committee Secretariat via email that its response will be re-submitted at the end of that process, and that the response provided on 04 June 2026 should be disregarded. CFA has received written acknowledgement from the Committee Secretariat to that effect.

Accordingly, I **attach** CFA's written response so that it may be subjected to the review process outlined above.

Can you please confirm that the outline of the process from here based on my understanding of our conversation is correct, and that EMV will coordinate the VGSO and Cabinet Committee review process and then liaise back with CFA to ensure our comfort with the final version prior to it being submitted to the Inquiry Secretariat. If you could also confirm that you are in contact with the Committee Secretariat to advise them of this process and likely timelines.

Regards,

Greg

Greg Leach AFSM

Chief Executive Officer



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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From: [Dean M Tighe \(DJCS\)](#)
To: [2026summerfires](#)
Cc: [David Clavarino \(DJCS\)](#); [Michael Galea](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Correspondence from Chair of the Environment and Planning Committee
Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 9:41:15 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Mr Galea

Thank you for your letter and congratulations on your appointment to the role as Chair of the Environment and Planning Standing Committee.

As you may be aware, Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) is the lead agency coordinating the State's involvement in the 2026 Summer Fires Inquiry. As such, I'm writing to provide an update on the CFA's responses to Questions on Notice (QONS) from the Hearing of State witnesses on 1 May, as well as the Committee's request for State Witness Briefing packs.

CFA Questions on Notice

I understand that the CFA provided responses to their QONS to the Committee Secretariate on 4 June and subsequently advised that these initial responses should be disregarded pending a legal review to identify potential executive privilege content.

EMV has been supporting the CFA with this legal review. We have prioritised this work and anticipate that the CFA should be in a position to provide updated responses to their QONS by Wednesday this week at the latest.

State witness briefing packs

On 22 May 2026, I wrote to the former Chair of the Committee (Ryan Batchelor) advising that the Briefing Packs, requested by the Committee on 1 May 2026, are within a class of documents over which executive privilege could be claimed by Government. In accordance with the Government-endorsed [Guidelines for appearing before and producing documents to Victorian inquiries](#), the potential claim of executive privilege is currently before Government for consideration. I anticipate that a decision regarding the claim will be made by Government by 14 July 2026.

Thank you again for the Committee's engagement on this Inquiry.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Dean Tighe

Chief Executive & Deputy Secretary
Emergency Management Victoria

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



incorporating
Emergency Recovery Victoria
emv.vic.gov.au

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria and pay our respects to them, their culture and their Elders, past, present and future.

From: [Greg Leach](#)
To: [2026summerfires](#); [Michael Galea](#); [REDACTED]
Cc: [Dean Tighe \(DJCS\)](#); [Jason Heffernan](#); [REDACTED] [Scott Purdy](#)
Subject: CFA answers to Questions on Notice following the public hearing on 01 May 2026
Date: Tuesday, 30 June 2026 7:01:08 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[CFA answers to OoN's - Final - 30 June 2026.pdf](#)

Dear Committee Secretariat,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 30 June 2026 in relation to Country Fire Authority's answers to Questions on Notice arising from the public hearing on 01 May 2026.

In response, please find attached the CFA's formal responses to the Questions on Notice.

Further to this matter, I wish to clarify that an earlier document provided to the Committee was submitted in error and should not be relied upon and subsequently disregarded.

That version contained material that:

- includes matters that would be factually contested.
- references Cabinet and Executive privilege considerations; and
- had not been validated or approved by the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Officer, or the CFA Board.

In addition, the document was an internal working draft only and had not been finalised through appropriate internal check and balances in accordance with relevant departmental guidelines.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused by this matter and thank you for your patience while we worked through the finalisation of our responses.

The attached responses represent the validated and authorised position of the CFA and should be taken as the official submission to the Committee.

Should the Committee require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Leach



Greg Leach AFSM
Chief Executive Officer

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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